CLAIMS

- A computer network system, comprising:

 a circuit board forming a backplane;
 a field replaceable unit (FRU) slot located on said backplane;
 a bus;
 a central resource coupled with said FRU slot via said bus; and
 a non-volatile memory coupled to said central resource;
 wherein said central resource generates a client-ID; and
 wherein said client-ID is associated with said FRU slot.
- 2. The computer network system of Claim 1, wherein said FRU slot comprises a Compact Peripheral Component Interconnect (CPCI) slot.
- 15 3. The computer network system of Claim 1, wherein said client-ID is associated with said slot by tying said client-ID with said FRU slot rather than with an FRU to be inserted into said FRU slot.
- 4. The computer network system of Claim 1, wherein said client-ID comprises one of a serial number, part number, and a geographical address of said FRU slot.
 - 5. The computer network system of Claim 1, wherein said client-ID comprises a unique identifier and wherein said unique identifier prevents an FRU from clashing with other network devices.
 - 6. The computer network system of Claim 1, wherein said client-ID comprises a client-id utilized by an address protocol for assigning dynamic Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

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- 7. The computer network system of Claim 6, wherein said address protocol comprises a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).
- 8. The computer network system of Claim 1, further comprises an FRU held by said FRU slot.
 - 9. The computer network system of Claim 8, wherein said client-ID is stored in said non-volatile memory.
- 10. The computer network system of Claim 9, wherein said client-ID can be downloaded by said FRU via said bus.
 - 11. The computer network system of Claim 10, wherein said FRU uses an Intelligent Platform Management Interface (IPMI) protocol to download said client-ID from said non-volatile memory via said bus.
 - 12. The computer network system of Claim 10, wherein said FRU uses said client-id for Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) booting.
- 13. The computer network system of Claim 9, wherein said central resource retrieves and makes said client-id available to a new FRU and wherein said new FRU downloads said client-ID via said bus when said new FRU is held by said FRU slot.
- The computer network system of Claim 1, further comprising a second
 FRU slot located on said backplane and wherein said central resource generates a second client-ID.
 - 15. The computer network system of Claim 14, wherein said client-ID is uniquely generated by said central resource for said FRU slot and said second client-ID is uniquely generated by said central resource for said second FRU slot.

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16. A method for client-ID generation on a computer network system, comprising:

generating a client-ID via a central resource; associating said client-ID with a field replaceable unit (FRU) slot; storing said associated client-ID in a non-volatile memory; providing said stored client-ID to an FRU via an interface; and utilizing said client-ID by said FRU.

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- 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said FRU is inserted into said FRU slot associated with said client-ID.
- 18. The method of Claim 16, wherein said utilizing said client-ID by said
 FRU comprises utilizing said client-ID as a client-ID field for Dynamic Host Configuration
 Protocol (DHCP) booting.
 - 19. The method of Claim 16, further comprising: determining whether said FRU is to be replaced by a new FRU; retrieving and making said client-ID available to said new FRU; and downloading said client-id by said new FRU.
- 20. The method of Claim 16, wherein said associating said client-ID with said slot comprises tying said slot with said client-ID rather than with an FRU to be inserted into said slot.

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